



MEMORANDUM ON INDIAN WORK

BY
HON. S. H. BLAKE

"The Spirit of the Lord began to move."

Judges 13 : 25.

"Watchman, what of the night?"

Is. 21 : 11.

"The Watchman said, the morning cometh."

Is. 21 : 12.


"It is singular how long the rotten will hold together provided you do not handle it roughly . . . so loathe are men to quit their old ways, and conquering indolence and inertia, venture on new."

Carlyle's French Revolution.

"Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept;
line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little."

Is. 28 : 10.

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To the Members of the Board of Management of the M.S.C.C.

As Convener of the Indian Committee appointed on the 22nd of last September in Ottawa, I beg herewith to present a statement of what has taken place since the first formal meeting of this committee held in Toronto on Friday, the 15th of January last, up to the present time.

MINUTES OF THE INDIAN COMMITTEE

The Indian Committee, appointed under the authorization of the Board of Management, met at the office of the Convener, Hon. S. H. Blake, at 10 a.m., Friday, January 15th, 1909; also at Mr. Blake's residence in the evening of that day.

Present—Mr. Blake, the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, the Bishop of Keewatin, the Bishop of Algoma, Mr. C. Jenkins, Mr. J. H. Bell and the General Secretary.

The Archbishop presided.

After general conversation engaged in by the Archbishop, the Bishop of Keewatin, the Bishop of Algoma, Mr. Blake read a paper dealing with the whole question of Indian work, whereupon the following Resolution was submitted:—

Moved by Mr. Charles Jenkins, seconded by the Bishop of Keewatin,—

And Resolved, That the Indian Department be earnestly requested without delay to introduce a certain number of the proposed "improved day schools".

The Dioceses of Rupert's Land, Saskatchewan, Caledonia, and Keewatin are prepared to aid heartily in carrying out the scheme of the Department.

A list of the places where advantageously such schools can be introduced will be forthwith furnished to the Department with the reasons for such selection.

Moved by S. H. Blake, seconded by C. Jenkins,—

That, notwithstanding the introduction of the proposed improved Day Schools, this Committee is of the opinion that in certain localities Boarding Schools are necessary, but that caution must be exercised in the establishment or continuance of such schools to prevent interference and overlapping and to avoid needless expenditure. Carried.

The following addition, Moved by the Bishop of Algoma, seconded by the Bishop of Keewatin,—

That the Committee is further of opinion that cases such as those of the Boarding School at Chapleau and the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Industrial Homes at Sault Ste. Marie should be carefully considered; that if it be a question whether or not one or other of these schools should be closed then the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes should be given the preference. Lost.

Moved by C. Jenkins, seconded by the Bishop of Keewatin,—

That the Committee most strongly urges the Department to put into operation the regulations as to compulsory attendance at all the Day Schools and that specific instructions be by the Department given to each of the agents directing them to see to the compliance with this rule, to invite the co-operation of the Chief and Council in each locality and to report from time to time to the Department thereon. Carried.

A paper was submitted by Mr. A. E. O'Meara calling attention to the fact that the General Synod had passed a resolution endorsing the conclusions arrived at by representatives of the churches engaged in Indian work at a meeting held in Winnipeg. It was pointed out that the findings of the Winnipeg meeting were the basis of all subsequent action, what had been done by the Indian Committee and the Advisory Board was the natural development of those findings arising from the subsequent action of the Indian Department.

L. NORMAN TUCKER,

Secretary.

The following Memorandum is the paper above referred to, presented and read to the Committee by the Convener:—

The need for such a Memorandum arises from the largeness of the demands made upon the M. S. C. C., the inability of this

Society to answer much more than one-half of the grants asked for, the fact that the English Societies are largely reducing their contributions for Indian work in the Northwest and British Columbia, and the apparent conclusion on the part of some that the M. S. C. C. should take the place of the English Societies and supply all the demands made for Indian work.

When the Societies in England, which largely aided the Indian work in the Northwest and British Columbia, first announced their intention of withdrawing their grants from this territory, attention was called very emphatically to this fact and that some other source must be found for replacing these amounts thus deducted or that changes must be made in the mode of carrying on this work. It was then ascertained that the sums annually received from these Societies appropriated for Indian work in this district considerably exceeded \$90,000. It was also shown that the share of the amount paid into the M. S. C. C. properly applicable by it to work in the Northwest and British Columbia did not exceed at the time more than \$50,000 and could not be estimated in the near future at more than \$70,000, and therefore that it was impossible for the M. S. C. C. to take up this work as it was being relinquished by the C. M. S. ; that so far from its being able to take up this branch, it could not answer the calls made for aid to the other work in this territory.

The consideration of this phase of work in the Northwest seems to have passed largely out of view, but the present condition of matters calls for the immediate and most earnest consideration of the Indian Committee and those interested in carrying on the Missionary and Indian school work in this territory.

The donations of the C. M. S. to its work in the Northwest and British Columbia, which amounted in 1897-98 to £18,711 or \$91,216, ran up in 1902-03 to £19,851 or \$96,773. In the meantime the work which the Society was supporting so largely, had been investigated, and a policy of gradual retrenchment had been determined upon, and the succeeding five years found the grants cut down to £14,402 or \$70,209, making a reduction of \$26,564 in the five years, with no provision made by the Canadian Church to answer this deficit. Within eight years the whole of this source of income, now amounting to over \$70,000 a year, will end, and with it the work thereby sustained, unless some provision or re-arrangement be made.

It is submitted that without any loss of time there should be a meeting summoned of the representatives of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land and British Columbia to take into consideration the circumstances in which our Church is thus placed and to consider and mature some plan whereby an adjustment can be made to place this work on a true and more lasting foundation.

The grants asked for by the fourteen Missionary Dioceses for the year 1909, omitting Keewatin, amount to \$119,218. The amount approximately attributable to these demands is about \$67,300. The M. S. C. C. is therefore not able to give much more than one-half of the demand asked for the Missionary work in the Northwest and British Columbia without making any allowance whatever for Indian school work.

In considering the plan of readjustment and retrenchment proposed by the Indian Department, a good many facts and figures were considered, to a certain extent, called for by the request of the authorities of the Shingwauk Home, amongst other institutions, for an enlarged grant.

The most expensive class of school carried on is the industrial school, and, in considering the question generally of Indian schools the papers annexed marked "I" and "II" are well worthy of earnest consideration.

These papers show that in the last seven years the number on the roll of these schools has diminished from 1516 to 1180; that the number taking trades in these schools has diminished from 142 to 65; that the total expenditure for these seven years is \$1,446,470.

The matter for grave consideration is whether there could not be a saving in this branch of from \$700,000 to \$800,000 and still give the pupils a more up-to-date education, a more healthy environment, and a better start in the battle of life.

The question is also now before the Indian Department whether in addition to a general dealing with the industrial schools, there should not in some instances be a replacing of the boarding school by the first-class improved day school, the plan of which has been presented to and approved of by the Board of Management of the M. S. C. C. This caused a calculation to be made of the expenditure for the last seven years upon the industrial and boarding

schools, and it was found that for this period \$921,088 were expended in boarding schools, which, carried back for fourteen years would make \$1,842,176, and for the same period for industrial schools \$2,892,940, or in all \$4,735,116, for the education of 3,054 children in these two classes of schools

Attention having been particularly called to the position of the Shingwauk Home by the request made of the Department the return annexed hereto marked "3" was prepared. This shows that of pupils at present attending that Home thirty-seven come from outside the Diocese of Algoma, twelve come from as far west as Sarnia, and six from as far east as Oka and St. Regis, in the Province of Quebec; thirteen come from Chapleau, and from all the localities whence these pupils are drawn (excepting, possibly, two) there are Indian schools for these children.

For the last seven years this school has been sustained by Government Grants to the extent of \$28,603.80 and English and Canadian subscriptions to the extent of \$32,407.26, making a total expenditure in the seven years of \$61,011.06, from these sources.

From the returns made to the Department, the number of entrants to this school for the fourteen years ending with 1908 was 228.

Of these as reported during that period there were honourably discharged or discharged at sixteen or over..... 64

There were reported as having died in the Home.....	23
As discharged sick.....	25
As expelled.....	3
As having run away.....	8
As having not returned.....	7
As having been discharged—probably sick.....	18

84

This makes 84, accounted for as above, which, added to the 64 discharged makes 148, which leaves, presumably, still in the institution 80.

This Home has thus passed upon 148 of the pupils admitted during these fourteen years as discharged honourably 64; and accounts as dead, discharged sick, run away, expelled, not returned, discharged (?) sick, in all 84.

The cost as given for the latter seven years is as follows :—

1902	\$ 9,560
1903	9,141
1904	10,700
1905	10,700
1906	10,200
1907	8,500
1908	9,785

Or\$68,566

Taking for granted that the expenses for the prior seven years were the same, that would make the cost of carrying on this school for the last fourteen years with the above result, \$137,132.

All these facts, with many others, are before the Department, and led to a letter of date the 31st of March, 1908, to Judge Johnston, of Sault Ste. Marie, acting for the Home, one sentence of which is as follows :—

"It will not be possible to continue financial aid under the existing arrangement, and hereafter the Department will not hold itself responsible for any deficits which may occur in the operation of the institution."

On the 27th of November last the Bishop of Algoma wrote as follows :—

"It is quite evident that we are not able to go on with our work under existing circumstances, but we are unwilling to close the schools without knowledge of what the intentions of the Government are."

On the 9th of December the Department answered this letter by stating :—

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ulto., the contents of which have been noted. Since the letter of the 25th June last was written to Judge Johnston no change of policy with reference to the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes has been decided upon."

On the 11th of this present month the Department wrote as follows :—

"Many reasons may be advanced to show that if the Shingwauk Home were closed the pupils in attendance could receive instruction in day schools in the various localities for the most part, and that the large amount of money which we expend on this institution might be more advantageously spent in improving the day schools on Reserves throughout Ontario, in pro-

viding Grants by way of Scholarships to more advanced Indians who wish to attend High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, and schemes that would tend to direct improvement on the Reserve."

"I think the evidence is pretty conclusive that we might expend the \$6,000 voted for the Shingwauk Home to better advantage in the interest of the Indians."

The Department also makes this statement in which it appears to me there is considerable truth :—

"Possibly the Church in her zeal for Missionary work has established schools which were not really necessary, and that as soon as the outside contributions have been withdrawn, failure to meet financial responsibility, has exposed the weakness of the position."

Another quotation from which I cannot differ from the knowledge displayed by the Department, is :—

"It does not appear to me that another investigation by our officers is necessary. I think the situation of Shingwauk Home is understood as well as any other locality in the Dominion."

We must not lose sight of the fact in dealing with these Indian questions that the Department has, through its agents and other sources, a very accurate knowledge of the details of all matters necessary to form a conclusion as to what is best to be done.

For instance—the Department has the absolute returns showing that the number of entrants in Old Sun'sy Blackfoot Reserve, School from 1894 to 1904 inclusive, was 99 and there were 41 deaths. It knows that the ordinary mortality in Ontario is 13 per thousand. You cannot, therefore, with the information in its books, blind it to the fact that this large mortality may be traced to the water being contaminated from the material through which it passes in coming to the School as reported from year to year by the Principal of the School.

The Department, also, has the returns of the Sarcee Reserve School showing the entrants from 1894 to 1908 to be 51 and the total number of deaths for that period 16 ; with an average attendance of 11 or 12 children in all.

We cannot hide from the Department the facts above referred to, and it is the part of wisdom to deal with these matters in the light of the fact that all this information is before the Department.

It is submitted that without any loss of time there should be

a meeting summoned of the representatives of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land and British Columbia to take into consideration the circumstances in which our Church is thus placed, and to consider and mature some plan whereby such general adjustment can be made as will place the work on a true and lasting foundation.

S. H. BLAKE,

Toronto, 14th January, 1909.

Convener of Indian Committee.

No. I.

REPORT, 1908.

Industries taught as referred to in Schedule.

Place	Denomination	On Roll	In Standards (IV, V, VI.)	Carpentering	Shoemaking	Tailor	Blacksmith	Baker	Harness-maker	Printer	Painter	Tinsmith	Total	Expenditure
1 Mohawk, Ont.....	Unden.	116	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$14,296
2 Mt. Elgin, Ont....	Meth.	109	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,848
3 Shingwauk, Ont....	C. of E.	70	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9,765
4 Wikmewikong, Ont.	R. C.	151	42	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14,071
5 Brandon, Man.....	Meth.	104	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	13,855
6 Elkhorn, Man.....	Unden.	97	48	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	14	22,752
7 Regina, Sask.....	C. of E.	67	21	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,201
8 Qu'Appelle, Sask.	R. C.	241	43	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	41,340
9 Regina, Sask.....	Pres.	68	20	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	13,097
10 Red Deer, Alta.....	Unden.	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,057
11 Red Deer, Alta.....	Meth.	70	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14,103
12 St. Joseph, Alta.....	R. C.	71	26	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	18,819
Totals.....		1180	392	52	3	0	6	0	1	2	0	1	65	\$199,204

No. II.

EXPENDITURE.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Mohawk.....	\$14,845	\$15,700	\$19,800	\$14,300	\$21,500	\$11,000	\$14,296
Mount Elgin.....	7,500	32,000	23,000	22,000	18,200	14,000	19,848
Shingwauk.....	9,560	9,141	10,700	10,700	10,200	8,500	9,765
Wikmewikong.....	10,232	10,673	12,600	14,000	11,000	12,000	14,071
Brandon.....	12,180	12,300	12,000	17,000	15,500	15,900	13,855
Elkhorn.....	21,000	17,250	17,000	14,700	16,400	14,000	22,752
Rupert's Land.....	26,000	15,100	16,000	13,600	11,800		
St. Boniface.....	11,000	8,800	9,500	8,600			
Wattleford.....	16,800	13,600	13,800	18,000	12,700	9,000	14,201
Calgary.....	8,100	8,200	7,800	8,600	7,200	5,100	3,057
Qu'Appelle.....	34,000	32,000	38,000	36,750	38,000	30,000	41,340
Red Deer.....	12,000	11,000	17,500	13,300	14,400	13,900	14,103
Regina.....	14,500	22,000	15,000	15,100	12,600	8,800	13,097
St. Joseph.....	14,000	13,000	14,000	18,800	16,900	13,500	18,819
Totals.....	\$211,767	\$220,794	\$227,200	\$225,150	\$206,400	\$155,700	\$199,204

	Expenditure	No. on the Roll	No. taking Training.
1902.....	\$211,717	1516	142
1903.....	220,794	1488	143
1904.....	227,200	1419	122
1905.....	225,450	1389	112
1906.....	206,400	1273	95
1907 (9 months).....	155,700	1183	71
1908.....	199,209	1180	65
	<hr/> \$1,446,470		

No. III.

Return for Quarter ending 31st December, 1908.

Place of Abode	Algoma.	No.	Ages.
Oka..... 4		4	16, 13, 10, 10
Garden River..... 5		5	12, 12, 15, 13, 10
Ojib. Lake Superior 1		1	14
Walpole Island..... 2		2	12, 11
Sucker Creek..... 2		2	10, 12
Muncey..... 1		1	10
Chapleau..... 13		13	16, 14, 10, 15, 14, 10, 8, 9, 12, 11, 14, 14, 16
Sarnia..... 12		12	13, 14, 10, 9, 12, 8, 12, 15, 15, 9, 10, 13
Montizambert..... 2		2	6, 12
Spanish River..... 3		3	12, 14, 10
Whitefish River ... 6		6	9, 11, 12, 6, 7, 12
Mississauga..... 1		1	15
Metagami..... 1		1	10
Shagvianlah .. 1		1	10
Moose Factory..... 2		2	13, 13
St. Regis..... 2		2	9, 11
Total pupilage... 37	21	Total 58	

In view of the proposals made by the Indian Department and of the probabilities of action being taken by the Superintendent-General on the lines laid down by him, it is of very great importance that each member of the Committee should acquaint himself with the existing state of matters so as to be able at the meeting of the Board in April next to aid in discussing the position that should be taken in the best interest of the Indians in respect of School and Missionary matters.

Attention has been above called to one of the industrial schools conducted by the Church of England, but the position of the other industrial schools is worthy of attentive consideration.

There are three industrial schools under the control of the Methodist Church :—

Mount Elgin, Ont.	On the Roll..	109	On Schedule of industries taught..	00
Brandon, Man.	" "	104	" " "	8
Red Deer	" "	70	" " "	2
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		283		10

There are, therefore, on the Roll of these schools 283, and on the Schedule of industries taught 10, which would give over 96% of those on the Roll in these industrial schools as not on the schedule of industries taught.

There are three industrial schools under the control of the Roman Catholic Church :—

Wikwemikong.	On the Roll....	151	On Schedule of industries taught	7
Qu'Appelle.....	" "	241	" " "	13
St. Joseph.....	" "	71	" " "	3
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		463		23

There are, therefore, on the Roll of these schools 463, and on the Schedule of industries taught 23 ; which would give over 95 % of those on the Roll in these industrial schools as not on the Schedule of industries taught.

Apparently a very large expense and much unnecessary machinery for very small results.

On the 6th of January, 1909, a meeting was held at Edmonton, called an " Indian Workers' Convention." At this meeting Miss Laing, in charge of the Indian Hospital at Morley, near Calgary, stated that during March and April, 1908, she visited homes with the object of finding out tubercular cases, and discovered at least 40 suspicious cases in those 70 homes. Some of the troubles were incipient ones, others far advanced. Soon afterwards 4 deaths occurred from tuberculosis, patients she had not seen, as sometimes the doors were shut in her face. Another of the speakers stated, from Lake Winnipeg westward to the Mountains, we have brought upon the Indians the dread disease tuberculosis. We should do our best to free the people from it. Most particularly in our Industrial and Boarding Schools.

Another speaker stated that reports are often circulated in the press that the cases of tuberculosis are found in the Industrial

and Boarding Schools, and so he wished to draw attention to the fact that Miss Laing had found 40 suspicious cases in 70 homes she had visited, but added, "I venture to say that if a doctor had gone through these 70 homes and made his statement from a medical point of view, that the number would have been 80, rather than 40."

The statements in the last Indian Report from Ottawa show the absolute necessity for continuing the fight for sanitary instruction and the endeavour to extend the means of combatting the dread enemy—tuberculosis, unless the Indian is to be allowed to die out.

This Report says the birth-rate among the Indians is,—

"If anything, somewhat higher than for the rest of the Dominion, but the trouble is that the death-rate is not far short of being twice as heavy, a large proportion occurring among infants."

"There seems no way of avoiding the conclusion that the comparative heavy mortality is directly attributable to the prevalence of tuberculosis in the race, which in some form or other must be held responsible, directly or indirectly, for something like forty per cent. of the premature deaths, and until means can be found for effectively checking this scourge the numerical growth of the native population must necessarily be very slow."

Mr. Francis E. Leupp, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the United States, in his last report, says:—

"Tuberculosis is the greatest single menace to the future of the red race. The Indian Office is confronted by the urgent necessity of doing more than has ever been done before in the way of protecting the Indians against the ravages of the disease; not only for their own sakes, but because the infected Indian community becomes a peril to every White community near it. It is, of course, almost hopeless to try to change the ways of the old-fashioned Indians past a certain point. What can be done in that line will probably be done through the work of the Agency and School Physicians who several months ago were constituted Health Officers, with large authority to direct and control the sanitary conditions of their respective reservations."

"Our Indian children are particularly prone to pulmonary complaints. Ever since we have begun clothing the Indians, and thereby making them physically more tender, the lungs have been their great seat of trouble; and when one child has begun to show pretty plainly symptoms of tuberculosis, it is not only cruelty to that child to shut it up where it shall breathe the enclosed atmosphere, but it is a menace to the other children with whom it is brought thus into close unwholesome contact."

"Having been satisfied by Dr. Hrdlicka's investigation that the wind instruments used by the boys band in the schools have in the past been vehicles for the conveyance of the tubercle bacilli from pupil to pupil, I have ordered all use of these instruments suspended till measures can be taken to prevent the further operation of this medium of evil."

Dr. Hrdlicka, of the National Museum, whose investigation is referred to in the preceding paragraph, visited five reservations and examined a group of typical families on each. From twelve to twenty-five per cent. of all the Indians examined were found to be infected with tuberculosis.

"For the younger generation, and for such members of the older generations as may, here and there, be disposed to take advantage of them, I have established, and am continually authorizing the establishment of sanitarium camps, where the inmates can fairly live in the open air constantly under the eye of the physician, have their diet, clothing, etc., carefully regulated and be subject to the most stringent regulations as to those matters which make for cleanliness of the person and surroundings and affect the spread of the infection."

A recent communication from the Principal of one of the Manitoba Schools, thus speaking of consumption, says:—

"I never knew what a fearful disease it was until I began work among the Indians. It is practically the only disease, save old age, that carried them off. I have buried ten per cent. of the population of one Reserve this year, all under twenty-five years of age—all lung trouble save one."

You can imagine the menace these sick Indians are, not only to their own, but also to the White settlers around them. It is criminal for our Government to allow bright young Indians—many of them well educated, lost by the score—simply because they will not use compulsion if necessary to make the older Indians conform to proper modes of nursing, isolation and sanitation. Most of those who die do so because of Indian prejudice against White methods, to pure pigheadedness, and to gross negligence. A few sharp squatters upon each Reserve would mean the salvation of many of the race."

At the Edmonton Convention above referred to, the majority of whose members were engaged in the work of Residential Schools, a resolution was adopted containing the following clause:—

"We express our belief that on account of the large areas covered by our reserves, especially in the southern part of this Province, and hence the scattered condition of the homes of the people, together with their Nomadic

habits, a condition is created for which this new type of day school will not at all adequately provide for some time to come, and that this Convention would respectfully call the attention of the Advisory Board and the Indian Department to the great necessity of retaining the Protestant Residential School on the Blackfoot Reserve. And further we are of the opinion that Residential Schools will meet the requirements of this Province better than any kind of day school."

A copy of this communication was sent to the undersigned by Mr. Arthur Barner, Principal of the Red Deer Industrial School, which was replied to as follows:—

" You refer to a 'Convention of workers among the Indians of Alberta.' It might have added weight to the resolution if the names of those who formed the Convention had been given. If those present are engaged in industrial, boarding, and residential schools, naturally they would desire that these schools in which they are interested should be continued. If, on the contrary, they are engaged in day schools, then, naturally their representation in favour of industrial, boarding, or residential schools would, to my mind, have much greater weight. It would be well, therefore, that the Board should be acquainted with this fact. You speak of the large areas covered by the Reserves in Alberta. No doubt it would not inconvenience you to write and let me know what the size of these Reserves is, and the number of Indians on them, and the number of children of school age. I understand that the residential school referred to has only an attendance of about thirty children. Is this supposed to answer all the needs of this Reserve? Would it not be in the interest of the Indians to have the residential school replaced with two or three good day schools, that could deal with twice or three times the number of children? Can it be said that this residential school is a success with only such a number as that above referred to if it be the residential school to answer the demands of that Reserve? It would not appear to me to be at all a satisfactory solution of the question of instruction, but, possibly, there may be reasons known to you which may alter this view. Are you aware that the Principal of this school has reported for years past that the water is contaminated by the material through which it passes in coming to the school? Is it in ignorance of this yearly statement in the report that you refer to 'the great necessity of retaining a Protestant residential school on the Blackfoot Reserve?' "

" In expressing your conviction that residential schools will meet the requirements of this Province better than any kind of day schools, have you in mind the fact that out of 1180 children on the roll of the industrial schools only 65 are taught any of the industries referred to in the schedule of industries taught, and that in the Red Deer school there are only two of the pupils in that list? If that result be a success, then the mind naturally is led to the question—what will be a failure? "

"I find the position of the Blackfoot Indian School to be as follows. The Indian School Inspector in 1905, at page 434 of the Blue Book, says:—

"The home in which the pupils and staff reside is unfit for use. It is located on a low flat piece of land and with little natural drainage. The ceilings are low and the foundation timbers are partially in the earth and without proper foundations of stone. The sanitary condition of the building is not good. The dormitories are small, with low ceilings, and in my opinion not fit for use."

"The health of the pupils has not been good. Four are now ill and during the last fiscal year, I notice from the Hospital returns; seventeen have been, on an average, treated for one ailment or another, during the entire year. I attribute the cause to the unsanitary condition of the school and unsanitary location."

"At page 303 of the same report the Principal says:—

"Health and Sanitation.—Notwithstanding the ample medical provision available, the general health of the children and the staff has been much below the average, and is traced to the unsanitary surroundings and the condition of the well water."

"Water Supply.—Though the supply is abundant, the condition of the sub-soil through which it passes is more or less contaminated."

"Now, notwithstanding this distinct and pointed notice, we have at page 380 of the Blue Book of 1908 the continuation of the state of matters set out at large in 1905:—

"Health and Sanitation.—We continue to do everything in our power to keep up the health of the children and the staff and under the circumstances we have done remarkably well."

"Water Supply.—The supply is abundant, but the condition of the sub-soil through which it passes is more or less contaminated."

Is it reasonable that you should ask the Advisory Board to urge the continuance of a school of which the Indian Inspector and the Principal thus write? If we were to do so how long would the Government have confidence in our representations?

"Then could you ask us reasonably to approve of the Boarding School on the Peigan Reserve and to ask for its continuance? The report as to which is as follows:—

"This School has accommodation for forty pupils. The average attendance was twenty-three. There being very few children of school age on the Reserve."

"There were three cases of scrofula and consumption, all three proving fatal."

"So that in this locality there are but few school children and the death-rate for the year 13%."

"There is another diminutive school thus referred to at page 180 by Mr. Neill, the Indian Agent:—

"There is a Boarding School on this Reserve under the auspices of the Church of England with Venerable Archdeacon Tims as Principal, Mr. Percy E. Stockén, Assistant Principal, and Miss B. Crawford, Matron, with 11 pupils on the roll."

" This is to answer a band, the population of which is 203.

" The Province of Alberta seems scarcely to illustrate the benefits of Boarding Schools. Take, for example, the McDougall Orphanage, of which the Inspector says at page-393, there has been " only 26 regularly within the institution, although there are about 100 children of school age within easy reach of this institution." Of this School the Principal says, at page 377 :—" The lack of attendance is to be accounted for in more ways than one. First, there is a desire on the part of the Indian to have his children with him all the time, then they say,— " Your school is diseased and our children get sick and die." The Principal continues : " We have to record the death by that dread disease, consumption, of four of our children : three boys and one girl." " This disease is very prevalent, that is plain from the figures the Principal gives showing a death rate of over 13% in the year. It is rather quaint that the Principal should add as if complainingly,— " It is this fact that makes the parents very unwilling to place their children in the School " !

" Is it even fair to ask the Advisory Committee to commend to the Indian Department such schools as the above with which your convention has been dealing? We can scarcely hope that the Government can deal with us with confidence unless we deal with them fairly; and not seeking to forward private views or ends, determine with a single eye to aid the Department honestly in all that will be truly beneficial to the Indian."

A meeting of the Advisory Board was duly called for Thursday, 28th of January, at which there were present two representatives from each of the bodies composing this Board, namely:—The Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay, Hamilton Cassels, K.C., The Rev. Dr. Sutherland, The Rev. Mr. Ferrier, The Rev Dr. Tucker, and the Convener, at which the following was agreed upon and instructions were given to transmit the same and the letter directed to be sent to Mr. Barner to the Department at Ottawa which was accordingly done.

1. That as the Advisory Board had approved in general of the Department's proposal in regard to the new improved day schools, whose inauguration would involve considerable additional expense, which could only be met by a corresponding reduction elsewhere, they could not consistently urge the larger expenditure on the one hand and refuse the necessary reduction on the other.

2. That the time has come when they should urge, with all possible force, on the Department the inauguration of the new policy, and the introduction of the new improved day schools without delay in such places as the conditions are favourable to their successful operation.

3. That it would be a mistake at this time to introduce any question that might divert the attention of the Government from this main object.

4. And that in regard to the particular points contained in your communication : (a) " The Protestant Residential School on the Blackfoot Reserve "—in view of all the facts before the Advisory Board, from the representatives of the Government and the officials of the School regarding the unsanitary condition of the school, it would defeat the main object if they urged the necessity of its retention at this time. (b) " That residential schools will meet the requirements of the Province better than any kind of day schools "—the Board felt they were not prepared to commit themselves to a statement that would practically nullify the action they are taking in support of the new scheme and exclude the improved day schools from the whole Province of Alberta.

L. NORMAN TUCKER,
Secretary.

Information has been received as to the localities in which the improved Day Schools are earnestly desired, and the particulars thereof have been sent down to the Department. It would be well if all those interested in the work of Indian Schools and among the Indians generally would seek out fit persons for the positions of skilled teachers, matrons, medical missionaries and nurses for the proposed schools, as their success must so largely depend upon first class persons for these positions.

It would be well also to consider what means can be taken to draft the Indian children into the schools for white pupils already opened or to be opened in order thus to aid materially in bringing them into full citizenship and to fit them for the surroundings in which their lives are to be spent.

The Advisory Board having been informed of the appointment of Mr. Duncan C. Scott, for many years Chief Officer in the Department, to the position of Superintendent of Indian Education, at once asked for an interview which request was complied with by the Department, and Mr. Scott was good enough to come to Toronto and meet the Advisory Board. The result of this meeting is as follows :—

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON INDIAN
EDUCATION, HELD FEBRUARY 8TH, 1909.

A meeting of the Advisory Board on Indian Education was held at the office of the Convener, Hon. S. H. Blake, Feb. 8th, at 10.30 a.m., to confer with Mr. Duncan C. Scott, recently appointed Superintendent of Indian education.

There were present in addition to Mr. Scott, Hon. S. H. Blake, Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Rev. T. Ferrier, Rev. A. E. Armstrong, and Rev. Canon Tucker.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Sutherland.

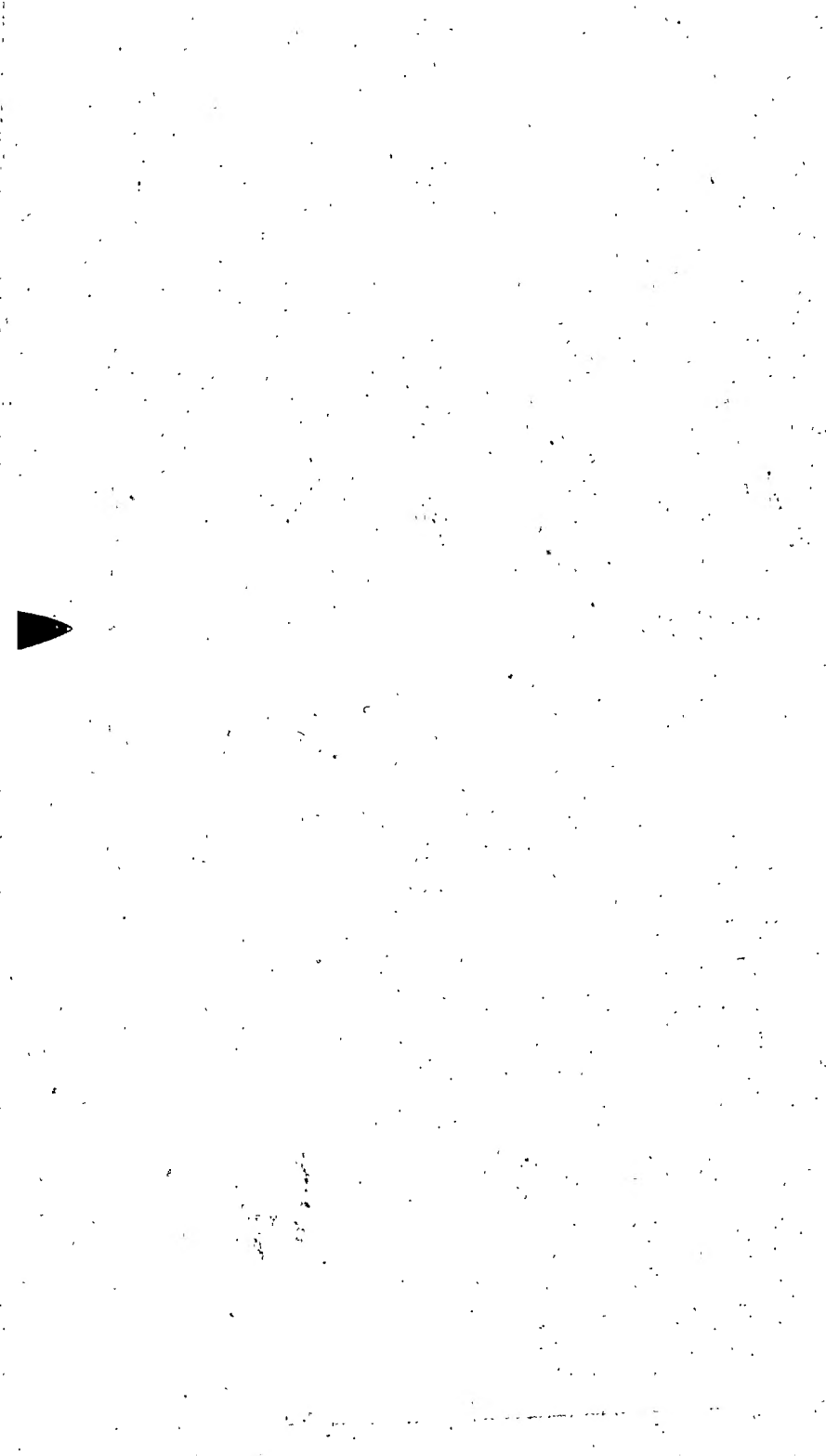
Mr. Scott opened the proceedings by explaining confidentially the reason why there had been delay in inaugurating the scheme proposed by the Department about a year ago. There had been many demands made on the Government ; it had been difficult to obtain sufficient appropriations ; and now the revenues had fallen off ; Mr. Fielding had announced that the allocation for Indian purposes would be \$20,000 less than the year 1906-1907, and that no supplementary estimates would be brought down. Nevertheless the Department continued to follow with great sympathy the new movement which they had suggested a year ago. He further stated that the new scheme had received no encouragement from the Roman Catholics, and that there had been some difference of opinion between the Advisory Board and some of the workers.

Mr. Blake, among other things, presented the case of the Day Schools, and stated that the Roman Catholics should be treated on the same basis as the rest, and that no Boarding School should be closed without due notice being given to the parties interested, so as to give them an opportunity of presenting their side of the case.

Dr. Sutherland stated that one essential condition of the success of the new Day School would be a superior class of teachers; and that involved the payment of higher salaries, and besides the teachers there should be ladies to do the work of deaconesses or nurses, and that the new experiment might be tried without seriously increased expenditure.

Moved by Dr. Sutherland, seconded by H. Cassels, K.C., and

Resolved,—That in the judgment of this Advisory Board the question of the closing of the three industrial schools, namely, those at Brandon, Elkhorn, and Regina, or one or more of them, be left in the hands of the Indian Department, the saving to be effected by such closing, together with the saving that has arisen from the closing of such schools as St. Paul's, Manitoba.; Emmanuel College, Prince Albert; the Calgary Industrial School; and the Morley and the Metlakatla School, and such other schools as may yet be closed, to be applied to the inauguration and carrying out as far as possible of the proposals made by the Department in their letter of April



24th, 1908. In making such allotments due regard should be had to the interests of the denomination to which the closed school belonged.

This Advisory Board cannot too strongly urge the beginning of this work at once, as the Churches it represents have had in contemplation the inauguration of such work for more than a year, and have been making their plans accordingly.

The following was also unanimously agreed on :

That the Advisory Board has had great satisfaction from the interview this day held with Mr. Scott, and they desire to convey to the Superintendent General the pleasure it has given them that such an appointment should have been made; and they recognize the great assistance they will receive from Mr. Scott in their efforts to carry out the proposals that have been made.

L. NORMAN TUCKER,
Secretary.

S. H. BLAKE,
Chairman.

8th February, 1909.

The Board feels that, looking at the very large amount of work to be accomplished in regard to the Onward Movement in connection with Indian Schools, great good must result from the appointment of one officer to undertake especially this work.

Subsequently the Board learned with pleasure that another officer of much experience had received a special appointment in connection with the Indian Work.

Not unnaturally, the Committee looks for large, speedy and beneficial results from these acts of the Department.

All of which is respectfully submitted for the best consideration of the members of the Board of Management of the M.S.C.C. by
S. H. BLAKE,

Convener of the Indian Committee.

22ND FEBRUARY, 1909.

